

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 DRC-01 /058 W

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R 081600Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8386

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: NATIONAL UNITY MEETING TO BE HELD OCT 8

REF: BA 7427

1. NATIONAL UNITY MEETING CALLED BY MRS. PERON (SEE REFTTEL) MEETS THIS MORNING (OCT 8). REPS OF VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS AND INSTITUTIONS WILL ATTEND -- E.G., MOST POLITICAL PARTIES, CGT, CGE, MILITARY, CONGRESS, CATHOLIC CHURCH (REPRESENTED BY CARDINAL CAGGIANO), SUPREME COURT, ETC. POLITICAL PARTIES STILL EXPECT LITTLE TO COME OUT OF MEETING. AS ONE UCR MEMBER PUT IT: "ANY MEETING WHICH INCLUDES CAGGIANO IS BY DEFINITION A WASTE OF TIME."

2. OPPOSITION PARTIES REAFFIRMED ON OCT 7 THEIR REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE MEETING WITH MRS. PERON AND THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER TODAY'S MEETING A SUBSTITUTE. IN FACT, HORACIO THEDY'S PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS WERE IN FAVOR OF REFUSING TO ATTEND TODAY'S MEETING UNLESS MRS. PERON FIRST AGREED TO A SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE MEETING WITH PARTIES. SOME UCR CONTACTS ARE BEGINNING TO SEE MRS. PERON'S WILLINGNESS (OR LACK OF IT) TO GRANT REQUEST FOR A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES

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AS A TEST OF HER GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN MEANINGFUL

DIALOGUE WITH THEM.

3. IN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN SOMETHING OF A PREVIEW FOR TODAY'S MEETING, UCR'S BALBIN, INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA, CGT'S CASILDO HERRERA, AND INDUSTRIALIST CARLOS COCQUEUGNIOT LAST NIGHT APPEARED ON TWO-HOUR TELEVISED PANAL DISCUSSION. VIOLENCE WAS CENTRAL THEME. BALBIN REITERATED REPUDIATION OF TERRORIST ACTS FROM LEFT OR RIGHT. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO AAA, HE COMPLAINED THAT GOVT HAD OUTLAWED ONE SET OF INITIALS (I.E. ERP) BUT NOT OTHERS (I.E. AAA). AS FAR AS UCR WAS CONCERNED, ALL SUCH EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE OUTLAWED.

4. DISTURBING ELEMENT IN LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WAS TENDENCY OF PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE TWO MODERATORS, BERNARDO NEUSTADT AND MARIANO GRONDONA, TO BLAME VIOLENCE ON "OUTSIDE FORCES." BALBIN SAID THAT MANY ECONOMIC LAWS HAD BEEN PASSED WHICH INJURED FOREIGN INTERESTS. IT WAS NO WONDER THEN THAT SOME GROUPS CONTROLLED BY THOSE INTERESTS WERE TRYING TO PERTURB NATIONAL TRANQUILITY. GRONDONA SUMMED UP BY SAYING THAT IT LOGICALLY FOLLOWED THAT SINCE EXTREMIST GROUPS HAD NO POSSIBILITY OF TAKING POWER, THEY WERE BEING DIRECTED BY OUTSIDE FORCES WITH SOME OTHER AIM.

5. COMMENT: BALBIN WAS CLEARLY SUGGESTING CIA IS BEHIND AT LEAST SOME OF THE VIOLENCE IN ARGENTINA. THAT MATURE, RESPONSIBLE POLITICIAN SUCH AS BALBIN WOULD TAKE THIS POSITION IS DISAPPOINTING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS07490
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740285-0812
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741065/aaaacddv.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BA 7427
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL UNITY MEETING TO BE HELD OCT 8
TAGS: PINT, AR
To: STATE USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005